



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/757,567 Confirmation No. 4523  
Applicant : Susumu KOBAYASHI et al.  
Filed : January 15, 2004  
TC/A.U. : 3732  
Examiner : Unknown  
Dkt. No. : NPR-136  
Cust. No. : 20374

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 19, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each document is attached.

No fee or statement is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the last of (1) issuance of a first official action on the merits and (2) expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

Documents DA to DC are not in the English language. However,

the concise explanation of the relevance of the documents required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied by the submission of English language translations thereof.

Please note that documents DA to DC are Japanese newspaper articles introducing a product of the assignee of the present application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 111833 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: PTO-1449  
Three Documents



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|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br><br>PTO-1449 | Atty. Docket No.<br>NPR-136           | Serial No.<br>10/757,567 |
|                                                  | Applicant:<br>Susumu KOBAYASHI et al. |                          |
|                                                  | Filing Date:<br>January 15, 2004      | Group:<br>3732           |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initial |    | Document No. | Date | Name | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If appropriate |
|--------------------|----|--------------|------|------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
|                    | UA |              |      |      |       |           |                            |
|                    | UB |              |      |      |       |           |                            |
|                    | UC |              |      |      |       |           |                            |
|                    | UD |              |      |      |       |           |                            |
|                    | UE |              |      |      |       |           |                            |
|                    | UF |              |      |      |       |           |                            |
|                    | UG |              |      |      |       |           |                            |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initial |    | Document No. | Date | Country | Translation Yes/No/Partial |
|--------------------|----|--------------|------|---------|----------------------------|
|                    | FA |              |      |         |                            |
|                    | FB |              |      |         |                            |
|                    | FC |              |      |         |                            |
|                    | FD |              |      |         |                            |
|                    | FE |              |      |         |                            |
|                    | FF |              |      |         |                            |
|                    | FG |              |      |         |                            |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initial |    |                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                    | DA | "Nipro sells a thrombus suction system 'NIPRO TVAC SYSTEM'", <i>Nikkan Yakugyo Shimbun</i> , January 15, 2003.     |
|                    | DB | "Aspirate a Thrombus in Coronary Arteries", <i>Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun</i> "Business & Technology", January 15, 2003. |
|                    | DC | "NIPRO sells a thrombus suction system", <i>Nikan Iyaku Tokushin</i> , January 15, 2003.                           |

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|-----------|------------------|
| Examiner: | Date Considered: |
|-----------|------------------|

KTK/jbf